

Trudy Schroeder, OM

Trudy describes herself as a community development activist with arts and culture as the means to build stronger, healthier, more vibrant places for us all to live. Since returning to her hometown of Winnipeg in 1995, Trudy has been involved in building community vitality and connecting people and ideas with the arts.

Trudy was the Executive Director of the WSO from July 2008 to May 2021. She held a similar position with the Winnipeg Folk Festival for ten years prior to that. Earlier in her career she worked for the City of Ottawa in the field of cultural policy development, arts facility development, heritage preservation and business communications. She was involved in the development and management of Arts Space, (Ottawa's Municipal Arts Centre) and she was the General Manager at Arts Space (a refurbished 1874 courthouse) prior to her move back to Winnipeg. She came to the business of arts management through a love of music and performance.

She holds an MBA from the Asper School of Business, a Performance Singing Degree from the Royal Conservatory in Toronto, an Arts Management degree from University of Ottawa, and a B.A. (Political Science) from University of Winnipeg. Trudy's husband and two daughters are generally good humoured about their involuntary conscription into all kinds of projects related to community development, music, culture, heritage, and festivals.

Trudy has a special interest in the creation of cultural spaces and the rehabilitation of heritage buildings to serve artistic purposes. In Ottawa, she worked with the community to transform the 1874 Provincial Courthouse into ArtsCourt, and she later became its General Manager. Here in Winnipeg, she was active in saving the old Ashdown store on Main Street from demolition, and later the Winnipeg Folk Festival had its administrative offices in that space. More recently she has been working on having the City of Winnipeg transfer ownership of Pantages Theatre to the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Trudy has served on many different community boards and project committees including the City of Winnipeg's Millennium Council, the Government of Canada's Voluntary Sector Initiative, the Canadian Conference for the Arts, the board of the Winnipeg Executives Association, and on the advisory committee for the Jim Burns Leadership Program at U of M. She has served as president of the board of Orchestras Canada, president of Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, and on the boards of Concordia Hospital and Concordia Foundation and the Premier's Economic Advisory Council Task Force on Arts and Culture. She has been recognized as a Woman of Distinction by the YM/YWCA, received several awards for community service from the Mayor of Winnipeg, was the recipient of a Blazers' Distinguished Alumni Award, in 2013 was the recipient of a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, in the summer of 2014 received the Winnipeg Folk Festival's Glass Banjo award for Distinguished Service, was recognized as Leader of the Year by Tourism Winnipeg in 2016. In July 2019, Trudy was honoured to be inducted into the Order of Manitoba.